

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1–47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) A method of providing summary social context in a computer discussion system where multiple user computers are in communication such that a common sequence and set of messages are transmitted among the multiple user computers, the method comprising:

providing a communication discussion between the multiple user computers, users of the multiple user computers participating in a first session during the communication discussion;

associating first discussion information of the communication discussion with identifying information of a first user, the first user being within the users;

based on the first discussion information, generating a summary of participation for the first user, the summary of participation including the identifying information of the first user associated with a number of times the first user has entered the discussion; and

providing, to the multiple user computers, the summary of participation of the first user, the summary of participation being displayed in a social accounting pane.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising associating a current attendance status with the identifying information of the first user, wherein generating a summary of participation for the first user includes associating an attendance indicator with the identifying information of the first user.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein first discussion information includes associating a time exited with the identifying information of the first user each time that the first user exits the discussion, and wherein generating the summary of participation includes determining when the first user last exited the discussion if the current attendance status indicates not present.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein associating first discussion information includes associating a time entered with the identifying information of the first user each time that the first user enters the discussion, and wherein generating the summary of participation includes determining when the first user last entered the discussion if the current attendance status indicates present.

52. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising counting a number of messages of a first type posted by the first user in the first session, wherein generating the summary of participation includes associating the identifying information of the first user with the number of messages of the first type and an indicator of the first type.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the first type is a member of a group consisting of a thread message type, a question message type, an answer message type, and a comment message type.

54. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising counting a number of messages of a second type posted by the first user in the discussion, the second type being different from the first type, wherein generating the summary of participation includes associating the identifying information of the first user with the number of messages of the second type and an indicator of the second type.

55. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising:
receiving an indication of posting of a message of the first type by the first user;
in response to receiving the message, transmitting the message to each of the multiple user computers;
in response to receiving the message, generating a new summary of participation of the first user; and
providing the new summary of participation of the first user to each of the multiple user computers.

56. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:
providing a second session, in the discussion, between a portion of the multiple user computers;
wherein associating first discussion information with identifying information of the first user includes associating discussion information of the first user from the first and second sessions.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the second session occurs prior to the first session, and wherein generating a summary of participation of the first user includes retrieving the second session information from a social accounting data structure.

58. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the social accounting pane is to be displayed simultaneously with a threaded discussion message pane displaying a plurality of messages in the discussion.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the social account pane is to be displayed adjacent to the threaded discussion message pane.

60. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein associating first discussion information with identifying information, generating a summary participation, and providing the summary of participation is repeated for each user of the multiple user computers.

61. (New) A computer readable storage media containing computer executable instructions, that when performed, perform a method of providing summary social context in a computer discussion system where multiple user computers are in communication such that a common sequence and set of messages are transmitted among the multiple user computers, the method comprising:

providing a communication discussion between the multiple user computers, users of the multiple user computers participating in a first session during the communication discussion;

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associating first discussion information of the communication discussion with identifying information of a first user, the first user being within the users;

based on the first discussion information, generating a summary of participation for the first user, the summary of participation including the identifying information of the first user associated with a number of times the first user has entered the discussion; and

providing, to the multiple user computers, the summary of participation of the first user, the summary of participation being displayed in a social accounting pane.

62. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 61, further comprising associating a current attendance status with the identifying information of the first user, wherein generating a summary of participation for the first user includes associating an attendance indicator with the identifying information of the first user.

63. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 62, wherein first discussion information includes associating a time exited with the identifying information of the first user each time that the first user exits the discussion, and wherein generating the summary of participation includes determining when the first user last exited the discussion if the current attendance status indicates not present.

64. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 63, wherein associating first discussion information includes associating a time entered with the identifying information of the first user each time that the first user enters the discussion, and wherein generating the summary of participation includes

determining when the first user last entered the discussion if the current attendance status indicates present.

65. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 61, further comprising counting a number of messages of a first type posted by the first user in the first session, wherein generating the summary of participation includes associating the identifying information of the first user with the number of messages of the first type and an indicator of the first type.

66. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 65, wherein the first type is a member of a group consisting of a thread message type, a question message type, an answer message type, and a comment message type.

67. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 65, further comprising counting a number of messages of a second type posted by the first user in the discussion, the second type being different from the first type, wherein generating the summary of participation includes associating the identifying information of the first user with the number of messages of the second type and an indicator of the second type.

68. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 65, further comprising:

receiving an indication of posting of a message of the first type by the first user;

in response to receiving the message, transmitting the message to each of the multiple user computers;

in response to receiving the message, generating a new summary of participation of the first user; and

providing the new summary of participation of the first user to each of the multiple user computers.

69. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 61, further comprising:

providing a second session, in the discussion, between a portion of the multiple user computers;

wherein associating first discussion information with identifying information of the first user includes associating discussion information of the first user from the first and second sessions.

70. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 69, wherein the second session occurs prior to the first session, and wherein generating a summary of participation of the first user includes retrieving the second session information from a social accounting data structure.

71. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 61, wherein the social accounting pane is to be displayed simultaneously with a threaded discussion message pane displaying a plurality of messages in the discussion.

72. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 71, wherein the social account pane is to be displayed adjacent to the threaded discussion message pane.

73. (New) The computer readable storage media of claim 61, wherein associating first discussion information with identifying information, generating a summary participation, and providing the summary of participation is repeated for each user of the multiple user computers.